

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-21 are pending in the present application. Claim 8 is canceled, and Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 21 are amended by the present amendment without introducing new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Buchner et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0069063 A1, herein “Buchner”).

At the outset, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim to priority and the receipt of the priority documents. Copies of the Official Filing Receipt, and of the date-stamped filing receipt indicating its filing, are provided with the present response.

Claim 16 is amended to correct its dependency. Other of the claims are amended to make other clarifications, which are not believed to narrow the claims in any aspect. No new matter is added.

Claim 1 is amended to recite,¹ among other things,

“... a plurality of human presence sensors configured to be installed in different rooms of the house to provide a detection signal indicative of a particular one of the rooms where the user is present and linked to said HAS; and

a room locating module configured to identify the particular room based on the detection signal, and to instruct to issue the voice message from the speaker belonging to the identified room, said room locating module included in one of said TP program and said HAS.”

¹ Claim 1 finds support at page 13, lines 8-25 of the specification, and in Claim 8, now canceled, for example.

Applicants respectfully submit Buchner fails to teach the claimed features, for the following reasons.

The Office Action states that Buchner discloses features similar to those recited in Claim 8, which are now incorporated in Claim 1 of the present application, at the paragraphs [0053] and [0060] of Buchner.² At the indicated portions, i.e., paragraphs [0053] and [0060] of Buchner, Buchner teaches an approach to differentiate devices of a same type, e.g. digital televisions in which one is located in a sitting room and the other is located in a study room, by assigning names to these devices, and an approach to control a network device over a public telephone network and two home networks A and B using a personalized speech unit. However, no where in the cited paragraphs does Buchner disclose or suggest that there is a plurality of human presence sensors linked to a structure corresponding to the claimed home agent server (HAS) nor that there is a structure corresponding to the claimed room locating module that identifies a particular room in which the user is present based on a detection signal from one of the human presence sensors, and instructs to issue a voice message from a speaker belonging to the identified room. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Buchner does not disclose or suggest the above-noted claimed features recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are believed to patentably distinguish over Buchner.

² See also page 5, lines 1-7, of the Office Action.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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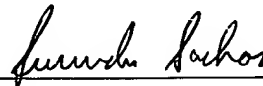
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